



# Montgomery County Council

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*From the Office of Councilmember Valerie Ervin*

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## **Councilmember Valerie Ervin to Co-Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 'Audacity of Hoops' 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in Silver Spring**

*Montgomery County Department of Recreation, IMPACT  
Silver Spring and Pyramid Atlantic Invite Montgomery  
Students to Participate in Free Event on Saturday, Sept. 15*

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ROCKVILLE, Md., August 28, 2012—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin, who represents District 5 that includes the eastern part of the county from Howard County to the District of Columbia, and Gabe Albornoz, director of the Montgomery County Recreation Department, are partnering with IMPACT Silver Spring and Pyramid Atlantic to host the second annual *Audacity of Hoops* Silver Spring 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament on Saturday, Sept. 15, in downtown Silver Spring.

The outdoor tournament will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Ellsworth Drive (next to the Silver Spring Civic Building's Veterans Plaza). All Montgomery County high school students are eligible to assemble teams and join the free tournament. The 2012 tournament is expanding to include boys and girls teams, as well as adult teams. There will be separate divisions for each.

The *Audacity of Hoops* is a 3-on-3 tournament that seeks to use sports and recreation as a means of engaging students and their families in constructive activities. Like last year's tournament, add-on events will include slam-dunk and free throw contests and a DJ. New this year will be female teams; jerseys with the *Audacity of Hoops* logo screen-printed by Pyramid Atlantic; and teams from County agencies, including the Recreation, Police and Fire & Rescue Departments. The event will take place alongside the Fenton Street Market to create a bustling pedestrian atmosphere in downtown Silver Spring.

“The 3-on-3 tournament is not only about providing young people with choices that are positive, fun and free,” said Councilmember Ervin, who chairs the County Council’s Education Committee and is a former member of the Board of Education. “This tournament also signals the growing importance of promoting physical activity by encouraging sports and exercise.”

The County’s Fiscal Year 2013 budget included funds for enhanced positive youth development programs supported by County Executive Isiah Leggett and the County Council.

“I applaud the County Executive for adding funding in the FY13 budget for positive youth development initiatives, which the Council supported,” said Councilmember Ervin. “These kinds of collaborative efforts encourage our young people to get involved in community life. I am very excited about this partnership event.”

In its short existence, the *Audacity of Hoops* tournament has made considerable strides. The tournament is a collaborative effort including partnerships with County agencies, non-profits and local shops and restaurants.

Gabe Alborno, director of the Department of Recreation said, “Recreation often provides an opportunity to actively involve in positive activities that strengthen and build community. The Recreation Department is very pleased to be a partner in the second annual tournament.”

IMPACT Silver Spring, founded in 1999 to address ongoing social needs in an extremely diverse community, runs targeted capacity-building programs for residents and groups to build empowerment and leadership skills. Last year, IMPACT merged the Long Branch Athletic Association, co-host of last year’s tournament, into its organization.

“Since merging the Long Branch Athletic Association into the IMPACT network, we have witnessed how sports can serve as a powerful way to connect with isolated families in our community and to bring folks together across lines of difference,” said Ronnie Galvin of IMPACT Silver Spring. “The *Audacity of Hoops* event is yet another demonstration of the convening power of sports and the capacity to collaborate and innovate to make life better for the young people in our community. We look forward to spreading the success of this event to other areas in our county.”

Participants can register and get more information by calling Jose Segura at the Recreation Department at [240-777-6916](tel:240-777-6916) or by emailing him at [jose.segura@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jose.segura@montgomerycountymd.gov). If space is available, teams can register the day of the event. All students must produce valid high school identification to participate.

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